Curing of a Gel Coat on a Mold

Abstract of Disclosure

Partially cured gel coats are prepared in a manner for subsequent application to a substrate, e.g. a reinforcing polymer matrix, by a process comprising the steps of: A. Applying a gel coat, e.g., an unsaturated polyester resin, to a nonporous mold, e.g., a polyester film, which is at least partially transparent to actinic radiation, e.g. UV light; and B. Exposing the surface of the gel coat that is in contact with the film, i.e., the bottom surface, to actinic radiation that has first passed through the mold. In certain embodiments of the invention, the surface of the gel coat opposite the bottom surface, i.e., the top surface, is exposed to actinic radiation shortly after the bottom surface is exposed to the actinic radiation to effect a bi-directional cure of the gel coat. The gel coat produced by the process of the invention is nonporous and essentially defect-free.

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